

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 70 has been added. Claims 1, 3, 6-12, 14-26, 29-33, and 68-70 are now pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 16, 29, 31, 68, and 69 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of US Patent No. 5,949,242 to Wood et al. ("Wood") and US Patent No. 6,078,845 to Friedman ("Friedman"). Claims 6-10 have been rejected under § 103(a) as obvious in view of Wood, Friedman, and US Patent No. 5,528,825 to Miyauchi et al. ("Miyauchi"). Claims 14, 15, 17-26, 32, and 33 have been rejected under § 103(a) as obvious in view of Wood, Friedman, and US Patent No. 6,184,699 B1 to Smith ("Smith"). Claim 5 has been rejected under § 103(a) as obvious in view of Wood, Friedman and US Patent No. 6,264,533 B1 to Kummeth et al. ("Kummeth"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

All of the foregoing rejections are based on a combination of Wood and Friedman in which the Wood test board 10 (see Figures 1-3A, 8, and 9 of Wood) is modified to include Friedman's electronic memory 16 (see Figure 3 of Friedman). The purported motivation for such a modification of Wood is that "combining Friedman's process with Wood's invention would have been beneficial because the added information would decrease the time necessary to bring a new device, or process, up to volume manufacturing standards while increasing process yield." Thus, the purported motivation is premised on the assumption that storing Friedman's information about the overall manufacturing process on Wood's test board 10 would somehow "decrease the time necessary to bring a new device, or process, up to volume manufacturing standards while increasing process yield."

There is no reason, however, for a person of ordinary skill in the filed to make such an assumption or draw such a conclusion. Friedman's tray 10 is for carrying a die from station to station throughout the manufacturing process. See the first sentence of Friedman's Abstract; see also Friedman col. 4, lines 60-63. Because Friedman's tray 10 carries a die throughout the manufacturing process, it makes sense to collect and store on such a tray information about the manufacturing process that may be helpful in improving the manufacturing process.

In contrast, however, Wood's test board 10 is used only during burn in and speed and functional testing of a die. Wood's invention is a simple test fixture whose purpose is to simplify test and burn in by allowing (1) testing of multiple dice at the same time without requiring a

separate carrier for each die and (2) burn in, speed test, and functionality test to occur on a common test feature. See Wood col. 2, lines 1-7. Wood is not concerned with the overall manufacturing process, much less improving manufacturing processes or yields.

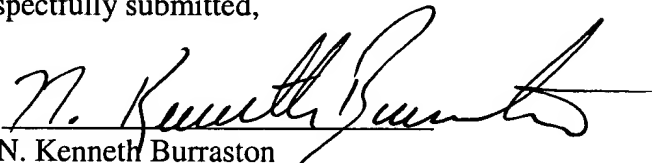
While it may be useful to collect and store information regarding the manufacturing process that may be helpful in improving the manufacturing process on a carrier used to transport a die from station to station throughout the manufacturing process (such as Friedman's), there would have been no reason for a person of ordinary skill in the art to conclude that it would be useful to store such information on a test fixture used only for burn-in and speed and functionality testing. Indeed, one wonders how storing the information described in Friedman that is gathered throughout the manufacturing process on Wood's test board could possibly "decrease the time necessary to bring a new device, or process, up to volume manufacturing standards while increasing process yield." Therefore, the prior art does not provide motivation that would lead a person of ordinary skill in the field to pick and choose from Wood and Friedman and combine their teachings in just the right way to look like claim 1 of the instant application. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are therefore patentable over the cited references.

New claim 70, which depends from claim 1, states that "each said die compris[es] a plurality of elongate contacts, [and] said carrier compris[es] at least one opening through which said elongate contacts extend." None of the cited references teaches or suggests a carrier with openings through which elongate contacts on the dice extend. Therefore, new claim 70 further distinguishes over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 536-6763.

Respectfully submitted,

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